Dewan.—Your Committee is one that has the largest amount of surplus funds. It has more than Rs. 25,000. The Government have recently asked the Committee to suggest measures of public utility to which the unspent balance could be applied.

The Member, continuing, said that a practical solution of the question was to construct two reservoirs with filter-beds, one near the Chettikulam and another near Krishnankoil, where Kodayar water was available and to distribute the water from the reservoirs to the various parts of the town by means of pipes. It was enough to construct the reservoirs with a capacity of three months' supply calculating 7 gallons per head.

Dewan.—The Chief Engineer is apparently of opinion that it is only by drawing water from the Ananthankal that the town of Nagercoil could be efficiently supplied with water. In any case, he says he would make an investigation, if he is allowed two or three lakhs of rupees.

Member.—My proposal would also cost 2 or 3 lakhs of rupees at the most. The town has a reserve fund of nearly Rs. 25,000 and the rest can be raised by loans, if only the Government gave permission.

The Member again pointed out that a sum of Rs. 2,500 was realised by the Committee as house-tax. The inhabitants were already spending some money for the supply of drinking water. The Committee would get at least Rs. 2,500 per mensem from the buildings in the town, if a water-tax were also levied on each house. The working establishment would not cost more than Rs. 1,000 per mensem. That would give a clear balance of Rs. 18,000 per year, and it would be sufficient to meet the interest on even 4½ lakhs of rupees at 4 per cent. The inhabitants of the town would gladly pay the tax.

The P. W. D. had opened two toll-gates near the town limits. The town was rightly entitled to all the proceeds from the tolls after allowing a due share to the Government for the maintenance of the roads. The tolls would bring in Rs. 40,000 per year, two-thirds of which should go to the Town fund. The Member suggested that the tolls near the town should be handed over to the Committee. The receipts from the tolls could be used as a Sinking fund for clearing the loans that the Committee might raise for the supply of drinking water and other useful works. A Sub-Committee of the T. I. C. was trying to devise a small experimental water-supply scheme costing about Rs. 10,000 to supply filtered water by some street fountains in parts of Vadiviswaram and Kottar. The Committee could afford to meet the cost of the scheme. If the proposals of the Committee were sanctioned by the Government and the experimental scheme worked out, it would, in addition to affording relief to that part of the town which was the worst in point of water-supply, also prove a valuable object lesson to the other Committees and the public and enable some data being collected for a comprehensive water-supply scheme. The Member, therefore, prayed that the Government might be pleased to sanction the scheme as soon as it was placed before them by the T. I. C. or even to urge the T. I. C. to work out the scheme.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The scheme under preparation by the Committee will be carefully considered, when it comes up.

95. Desirability of granting to the rate payers of the town of Kuzhithurai the privilege of electing the non-official Members of the local Town Improvement Committee.

Mr. S. S Ramaswami Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Kuzhithurai) said that the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation was introduced in the town at the close of 1088 and a Committee formed at the beginning of 1089, that, besides the President, there were 2 official members and 7 non-official members and that all the non official members were being nominated by the Government. The neighbouring Committees of Padmanabhapuram and Nagercoil were given the power to elect at least 4 out of the 7 non-official members. A non-official member was nominated only at the beginning of the current year, so that, even if the privilege was conferred now, it could not be exercised for about 2½ years. By that time, it was likely that the new Municipal Bill would become law. Out of the seven non-official

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members one was a Malayala Jenmi, who had recently submitted his resignation. The resignation has been forwarded to the Government. If the privilege prayed for be granted now, there would be a chance of exercising the same in connection with the nomination of a non-official member in the place of the Jenmi member. Of the 7 non-official members, two were Nairs, one was a Brahmin, one a Christian, one a Shanar, one an Ezhava and one a Malayala Jenmi. The Member prayed that the privilege of electing non-official members might be granted to the Committee with the qualification that each of the above communities be allowed to elect a member from amongst their respective communities.

Dewan's reply.—The Government are inclined to grant the Committee the privilege of electing a few of the non-official members. But the last portion of the Members' suggestion does not seem to be feasible. Once the privilege of election is conferred on the Committee, it would not be proper on principle to impose any restrictions on the Committee in regard to the method of using that privilege. If the people would not use the power of election in the interests of *all* communities, it would be better for the Government to reserve to themselves the right of making nominations in respect of a few seats, to secure the interests of the unrepresented minority. The matter will be considered.

96. Sanitary needs of the town of Trivandrum with special reference to the present system of drainage.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that the Town Improvement Committee of Trivandrum had of late been the subject of much adverse criticism from the general public and that the Government had also not been sparing in their condemnation of the Committee. The criticism was confined to defects in sanitation, while the Government were mainly concerned with the general financial condition of the Committee.

Regarding the first question, namely, the one affecting the general sanitation and public health of Trivandrum, the Member referred to the following points for consideration:—

(1) *Condition of the drains*.—The condition of the drains was far from satisfactory. There were natural facilities for the introduction of an efficient system of drainage. For that purpose, the town might be divided into two divisions, the northern half consisting of ridges and valleys and the southern half, which was one consistent and continuous plain up to the sea (a straight line drawn from Kannanmula to Killiyar). There would be no difficulty in constructing drains in the northern half as the rain-water and sewage would flow along the slopes to the valleys below and thence out into the several natural water-courses without the help of regular drains. In the southern half, the houses were situated in extensive compounds except in the densely populated parts and the rain and sewage water found its way into the backyards, where, owing to the sandy nature of the soil and the extent of the plots, there was no stagnation whatever. Attention had to be mainly devoted to the collection and disposal of rain and sewage water only in the more congested areas where masonry drains had been constructed. Grave complaints existed regarding the same. The chief defects were,—

(*a*) Levels were defective in certain places and proper outlets had not been provided. The bed-fall of certain drains, such as those at Murippalam in the Chalai Ward and at Valiachalai, was not sufficient to have a self-cleansing velocity.

(*b*) The system of drains was unconnected with one another and could not properly be flushed from one head.

(*c*) Although the Committee was supposed to be in charge of drain-cleansing, they were seldom or never consulted by the D. P. W. in the construction of new drains or the extension of old ones. Such drain construction was mainly intended by the D. P. W. to protect the edges of the roadway and to carry off rain water, though it was a source of positive injury to public health. The dual control in the matter of planning and carrying out the drainage works impaired efficiency to a considerable extent. There were also instances in which the recommendations

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